

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Alejandro Wiechers

Group Art Unit: 2625

Serial No.: 10/635,475

Examiner: Rodriguez, Lennin

Filed: August 7, 2003

Docket No. 200207448-1

For: **Managing Workflow In A Commercial Printing Environment With High Performance Prepress Rework At Print Service Provider Location**

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed March 31, 2008, responding to the Final Office Action mailed December 31, 2007.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 2, 12, and 21 have been canceled leaving claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 remaining. Each of those claims stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are appealed.

IV. Status of Amendments

This application was originally filed on August 7, 2003, with twenty-one (21) claims. In a Response filed October 8, 2007, Applicant amended claims 1, 3-11, 13-20, and canceled claims 2, 12, and 21. In a Response filed January 29, 2008, Applicant amended claims 11 and 13-20.

All of the above-identified amendments have been entered and no other amendments have been made to any of claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of those claims.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description (“specification”) and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Independent claim 1 describes a method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location. The method comprises creating at the designer location a print job to be printed by the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, paragraph 0019; Figure 1, item 100. The method of claim 1 further comprises creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, page 7, paragraph 0021; Figure 1, item 104. The method of claim 1 further comprises creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, paragraphs 0040-0041; Figure 1, item 118. The method of claim 1 further comprises submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network. *Applicant's specification*, page 13, paragraph 0044; Figure 1, item 120. The method of claim 1 further comprises an automated preflight module

performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location by automatically opening, reading, and interpreting said job ticket to confirm that the selected production devices identified in said job ticket are available and, if one or more of the selected production devices are not available, automatically selecting one or more alternative production devices to process said print job to ensure production substantially as designed. *Applicant's specification*, pages 13-14, paragraphs 0045-0049; Figure 1, item 124. The method of claim 1 further comprises an automated prepress rework module performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed. *Applicant's specification*, page 16, paragraph 0058; Figure 1, item 136. The method of claim 1 further comprises performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider. *Applicant's specification*, pages 17-18, paragraphs 0060-0069; Figure 1, items 138-144.

Independent claim 11 describes a computer-readable medium storing a program product for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location. The program product comprises machine-readable program code that causes a machine to perform the step of creating at the designer location a print job to be printed by the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, paragraph 0019; Figure 1, item 100. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print

service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location. *Applicant's specification*, page 7, paragraph 0021; Figure 1, item 104. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, paragraphs 0040-0041; Figure 1, item 118. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network. *Applicant's specification*, page 13, paragraph 0044; Figure 1, item 120. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location by automatically opening, reading, and interpreting said job ticket to confirm that the selected production devices identified in said job ticket are available and, if one or more of the selected production devices are not available, automatically selecting one or more alternative production devices to process said print job to ensure production substantially as designed. *Applicant's specification*, pages 13-14, paragraphs 0045-0049; Figure 1, item 124. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed. *Applicant's specification*, page 16, paragraph 0058; Figure 1, item 136. The machine-readable program code further causes a machine to perform the step of performing at least one

of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider. *Applicant's specification*, pages 17-18, paragraphs 0060-0069; Figure 1, items 138-144.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following grounds of rejection are to be reviewed on appeal:

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11-14, 19, 21, 22, 27, and 29-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil*, et al. ("Roztocil," U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0044868) in view of *Schorr*, et al. ("Schorr," U.S. Pat. No. 6,608,697).
2. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr* in view of *Stewart*, et al. ("Stewart," U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,964).

VII. Arguments

The Appellant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals overturn the final rejections of those claims at least for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has the burden 35 U.S.C. § 103 to establish obviousness by showing objective teachings in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The key to supporting an allegation of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is the clear articulation of the reasons why the Examiner believes that claimed invention would have been obvious. See MPEP § 2141. As stated by the Supreme Court, "[r]ejections on obviousness cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." *KSR v. Teleflex*, 550 U.S. at ___, 82 USPQ2d at 1396 (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988, 78 USPQ2d 1329, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2006)).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not established that Applicant's claims are obvious in view of the prior art. Applicant discusses those claims in the following.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11-14, 19, 21, 22, 27, and 29-32

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11-14, 19, 21, 22, 27, and 29-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil*, et al. (“Roztocil,” U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0044868) in view of *Schorr*, et al. (“Schorr,” U.S. Pat. No. 6,608,697). Applicant respectfully traverses.

1. The Roztocil Reference

Roztocil discloses a production work flow 100 of a “typically production print shop.” *Roztocil*, paragraph 0020. The work flow 100 comprises various stages, including job origination 102, job submission 104, job preparation 106, print production 108, and final fulfillment 110. *Roztocil*, Figure 1.

As shown in Figure 1, the print shop includes a computer network 112 that includes computer work stations 114, 116, servers 118, 120, and output devices 122. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0021. A customer can submit a job during job origination 102 by either physically delivering to the print shop one or more documents in hard copy or electronic form or by transmitting the one or more documents to the print shop via the Internet. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0022. After that point, all aspects of the production work flow 100 are performed at the print shop using its network 112. See *Roztocil*, paragraphs 0023-0033.

Included in the production work flow 100 performed at the print shop is what *Roztocil* calls “user functionality workflow 200.” *Roztocil*, paragraph 0034. That workflow 200 includes a preflight stage 204 that is performed using a workflow management software program that executes on a job preparation workstation 116 at the print shop. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0036. Using that program, operators at the print shop can obtain data

about the various output devices 122 of the print shop, including their availability and capabilities. *Roztocil*, paragraph 0045.

As can be appreciated from the above, with the exception of transmitting documents over the Internet to Roztocil's print shop, no actions of Roztocil's disclosed production work flow are performed at a customer's (e.g., designer's) location.

2. The Schorr Reference

Schorr discloses a preflight system 101 that can be accessed by independent print vendors 117 and print buyers 119 alike. *Schorr*, column 4, lines 1-7; Figure 1. As described by Schorr, the preflight system 101 includes an interface 105 through which the vendors 117 and buyers 119 can access the system over the Internet. *Schorr*, column 4, lines 29-33.

The preflight system 101 comprises various modules 107, 109 that can be downloaded to the buyers 119. *Schorr*, column 4, lines 33-37. One such module is an "inspector module 109A" that scans through designated files of the buyer 119 and then transmits identified "document elements" to an analyzer 111 of the preflight system 101. *Schorr*, column 6, lines 17-22. The analyzer 111, which is *not* downloaded to the buyer 119, compares the documents transmitted by the inspector module 109A and identifies errors in the documents. *Schorr*, column 7, lines 57-67. When an error is found, the analyzer 111 obtains an error message that can be provided to the print vendor 117 who will perform the printing. *Schorr*, column 7, lines 63 to column 8, line 12.

As can be appreciated from the above, Schorr describes a preflight system 101 independent from a customer (e.g., designer) that analyzes documents for errors.

Although the preflight system 101 can detect errors, Schorr does not state that the system in any way corrects those errors. Instead, the preflight system 101 merely notifies the print vendor of the errors.

3. Applicant's Claims

Applicant's claim 1 provides as follows:

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating at the designer location a print job to be printed by the print service provider location;

creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket;

submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;

an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location by automatically opening, reading, and interpreting said job ticket to confirm that the selected production devices identified in said job ticket are available and, if one or more of the selected production devices are not available, automatically selecting one or more alternative production devices to process said print job to ensure production substantially as designed;

an automated prepress rework module performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of

production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner argued that Roztocil discloses all of the subject matter of claim 1 except for the “automated preflight module” limitation. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Roztocil discloses all of that subject matter and further disagrees that Schorr discloses an automated preflight module that operates as recited in claim 1. Applicant discusses various limitations of claim 1 below.

(a) Creating a Job Ticket at the Designer Location

In the final Office Action, the Examiner argued that Roztocil discloses “creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location”. In particular, the Examiner “interpreted” Roztocil’s Figure 1 as showing a designer location. In response, Applicant notes that Roztocil explicitly states that Figure 1 illustrates a “print shop,” which may be said to comprise a print service provider location. Specifically, Roztocil states:

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is shown a flow diagram illustrating the production work flow 100 in a typical production print shop such as a commercial high volume copy or print shop.

Roztocil, paragraph 0020, lines 1-4 (emphasis added). Furthermore, Roztocil states:

FIG. 1 further depicts a typical computer network 112 for use in a print shop. In a typical digital print shop, there will be a network 112 of computer work stations 114, 116, servers 118, 120 and high volume output devices 122 which make up the computer network 112.

Roztocil, paragraph 0021, lines 1-5 (emphasis added). Therefore, the Examiner's "interpretation" that a designer location is depicted in Figure 1 on the "client side" of the figure contradicts Roztocil's explicit disclosure. Applicant further notes that the meaning of the term "designer location" as being a location separate from such a print shop is clear both from the fact that Applicant separately claims a "designer location" and a "print service provider location" and from Applicant's disclosure, which must be consulted when interpreting claim limitations. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 34 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(*in banc*), *aff'd*, 517 U.S. 370, 38 USPQ2d 1461 (1996) ("Claims must be read in view of the specification, of which they are a part"). Moreover, Applicant notes that there is no suggestion within the Roztocil reference, or the Schorr reference for that matter, for enabling the document designer to create a job ticket. Specifically, in Roztocil's disclosed system, all actions related to preparing a document for printing, including the creation of a job ticket, are tasks that are performed at the print shop by the print shop equipment and/or its operators. The designer, or "client," merely submits documents to the print shop for printing. No greater role for the client is contemplated by Roztocil. See *Roztocil*, paragraphs 0020-0026.

In view of the fact that Figure 1 shows a print shop and not a "designer location", it follows that paragraphs 0022 and 0023, which pertain to Figure 1 and which were cited by

the Examiner in the final Office Action, do not in fact disclose creating a job ticket “at the designer location”.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stressed that Figure 1 shows a “workflow” and not a “print shop”. In response, Applicant notes that Figure 1 does in fact explicitly identify a “PRINT SHOP” and that every action of the workflow 100 except for job origination 102 is explicitly shown as occurring at the “PRINT SHOP.” See *Roztocil*, Figure 1. Moreover, as described above, each of the actions that the Examiner alleges occurs at a designer location, including the creation of a job ticket, is explicitly described by Roztocil as occurring at the print shop.

As a further matter regarding the limitation “creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location”, Applicant notes that Roztocil also does not disclose a job ticket that “identifies selected production devices”, whether the ticket be created at a designer location or otherwise. In regard to Roztocil’s paragraphs 0046 and 0047, which were relied upon by the Examiner, neither paragraph states that a job ticket identifies the production devices that will be used. In paragraph 0046, Roztocil merely indicates that job tickets can be used. In paragraph 0047, Roztocil states that documents can be assigned to particular devices by selecting, clicking, and dragging. Therefore, Roztocil does not in fact disclose a job ticket identifying production devices.

(b) Creating a Press Ready File at the Designer Location

It was also argued in the final Office Action that Roztocil discloses “creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket”. For support, the Examiner identified paragraphs 0022, 0023, 0028 of the Roztocil disclosure.

In response, Applicant notes that, although Roztocil mentions a “ready for printer file” that includes the data to be printed and “printer control instructions” in paragraph 0028, Roztocil does not indicate that the ready for printer file is created “at the designer location”. To the contrary, it is clear that the ready for printer file is created at Roztocil’s print shop. In particular, the creation of the ready for printer file is described by Roztocil in the discussion of “job preparation 106,” which is performed at Roztocil’s print shop.

Turning to paragraphs 0022 and 0023, Applicant notes that those paragraphs merely speak of a customer, which the Examiner is treating as the claimed “designer”, submitting a job. Roztocil describes no job ticket that accompanies that submission by the customer. Indeed, paragraph 0023 even indicates that the job ticket is prepared at the print shop *after* the print job has been received from the customer:

Job submission 104 is the receipt of the job by the print shop and the entering of the job into the print shops production system or workflow. Typically the instructions from the customer will be written down on a special form, known as a "ticket" or "job ticket".

Roztocil, paragraph 0023, lines 5. Clearly, the customer submits one or more documents to the print shop as a “job,” and the print shop then generates an appropriate job ticket. Again, the customer in Roztocil’s system merely submits documents for printing. No

greater role for the customer is contemplated by Roztocil. See *Roztocil*, paragraphs 0020-0026.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner reiterated his argument that Roztocil discloses creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket in light of Roztocil's paragraph 0028. As described above, the actions described in paragraph 0028 occur at Roztocil's print shop, not any designer location (or "client side" as argued by the Examiner). Applicant notes that the Examiner has failed to specifically identify anything in paragraph 0028, or the remainder of the Roztocil reference, that indicates that the "ready for printer file" is created at the client side.

(c) Automatically Reformatting a Print Job for Newly Selected Production Devices

The Examiner further argued in the final Office Action that Roztocil discloses "an automated prepress rework module performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed". In support of that argument, the Examiner relied upon paragraphs 0030 and 0031 of the Roztocil disclosure.

Beginning with paragraph 0030, Roztocil describes various modifications that can be made to a customer's documents. In that description, however, Roztocil never states that the modifications are "automatic" or that they are performed relative to a

“newly selected production device”. Instead, Roztocil in paragraph 0030 makes multiple references to an “operator” (i.e., a human being) at the print shop who makes the modifications, which relate to errors in the documents and not to a device change. See *Roztocil*, paragraph 0030.

Turning to paragraph 0031, although Roztocil mentions load balancing relative to available devices, Roztocil says *nothing* about reformatting documents based upon the device that is chosen to process a job. For all the reader knows, all of Roztocil’s devices are the same make and model and have the same configurations, in which case no such reformatting would be necessary regardless of which device were used to process the job.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner reiterated the argument that paragraphs 0030 and 0031 disclose an automated prepress rework module performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed. Applicant notes, however, that the Examiner has failed to identify with specificity the particular portions of those two paragraphs that disclose “automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed”. Instead, the Examiner generally alleges that a print ready file is “updated” after “some changes are been made”. Clearly, the Examiner has not addressed the explicit limitations of claim 1.

(d) Automatically Opening, Reading, and Interpreting a Job Ticket and Automatically Selecting an Alternate Production Device

The Examiner admitted in the final Office Action that Roztocil does not disclose “an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location by automatically opening, reading, and interpreting said job ticket to confirm that the selected production devices identified in said job ticket are available and, if one or more of the selected production devices are not available, automatically selecting one or more alternative production devices to process said print job to ensure production substantially as designed”. In view of that shortcoming, the Examiner argued that Schorr discloses in column 6, lines 41-65 the action of “automatically opening, reading, and interpreting” a job ticket and “automatically selecting” an alternative production device. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In column 6, lines 41-65, Schorr describes an analyzer 111 that works in conjunction with a printer profile database 115. Missing from that portion of Schorr’s disclosure, however, is a description of the analyzer 111, or another component, “opening, reading, and interpreting” a job ticket. Applicant notes that the “printer profiles” that Schorr discusses pertain to attributes of available printers, not a print job. Therefore, the profiles are not job tickets.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner block copied Applicant’s limitation, including the recitation that the automated preflight check occurs “at the print service provider location”, and reiterated his argument that such Schorr discloses that limitation. Applicant notes that the Examiner failed to address the fact, which Applicant raised in the Response

to the final Office Action, that the preflight check described by Schorr takes place at a preflight system 101 that is completely separate from the print vendors 117 (i.e., print provider locations). Again, the Examiner has not addressed the explicit limitations of claim 1.

(e) Conclusion Regarding Independent Claims 1 and 11

In view of the foregoing, Roztocil and Schorr do not disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 1. In fact, it is clear that those references fail to disclose or suggest multiple limitations of claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejections of claim 1 and its dependents should be reversed. Given that independent claim 11 comprises limitations similar to those of claim 1, Applicant further submits that claim 11 and its dependents are allowable for similar reasons.

B. Rejection of Claims 7-10 and 17-20

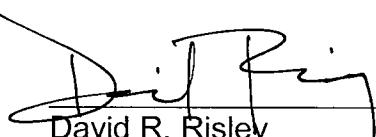
Claims 7-10 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roztocil* and *Schorr* in view of *Stewart, et al.* ("Stewart," U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,964). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Roztocil and Schorr do not teach aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Stewart does not remedy the deficiencies of the Roztocil and Schorr references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-10 and 17-20 are allowable over the Roztocil/Schorr/Stewart combination for at least the same reasons that claim 1 and 11 are allowable over Roztocil/Schorr.

VIII. Conclusion

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating at the designer location a print job to be printed by the print service provider location;

creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket;

submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;

an automated preflight module performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location by automatically opening, reading, and interpreting said job ticket to confirm that the selected production devices identified in said job ticket are available and, if one or more of the selected production devices are not available, automatically selecting one or more alternative production devices to process said print job to ensure production substantially as designed;

an automated prepress rework module performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of production devices at the

print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider.

2. (Canceled)

3. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job includes determining whether a selected printer is available at the print service provider location and, if not, revising said print job for printing on an alternate printer.

4. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job further comprises performing automated imposition setup of said press ready file to arrange a plurality of design pages of said print job onto one or more print pages.

5. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said print job to select the desired finishing options for said print job when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

6. A method of managing workflow according to claim 5 wherein said automated remote finishing setup of said print job is performed only if an error relating to finishing of said print job was identified in said preflight check.

7. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said print job to select the desired packaging options for said print job when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

8. A method of managing workflow according to claim 7 wherein said automated remote packaging setup of said print job is performed only if an error relating to packaging of said print job was identified in said preflight check.

9. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said print job to select the desired shipping options for said print job when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

10. A method of managing workflow according to claim 9 wherein said automated remote shipping setup of said print job is performed only if an error relating to shipping of said print job was identified in said preflight check.

11. A computer-readable medium storing a program product for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

creating at the designer location a print job to be printed by the print service provider location;

creating a job ticket at the designer location that identifies selected production devices of the print service provider to be used to process said print job and processing instructions for the print service provider location;

creating a press ready file at the designer location that encompasses both said print job and said job ticket;

submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;

performing an automated preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location by automatically opening, reading, and interpreting said job ticket to confirm that the selected production devices identified in said job ticket are available and, if one or more of the selected production devices are not available, automatically selecting one or more alternative production devices to process said print job to ensure production substantially as designed;

performing an automated prepress rework of said print job to address any changes in selection of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check by automatically reformatting said print job for any newly selected production devices to ensure production substantially as designed; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping at the print service provider.

12. (Canceled)

13. A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job includes determining whether a selected printer is available at the print service provider location and, if not, revising said print job for printing on an alternate printer.

14. A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job further comprises performing automated imposition setup of said press ready file to arrange a plurality of design pages of said print job onto one or more print pages.

15. A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said print job to select the desired finishing options for said print job when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

16. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15 wherein said automated remote finishing setup of said print job is performed only if an error relating to finishing of said print job was identified in said preflight check.

17. A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said print job to select the desired packaging options for said print job when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

18. A computer-readable medium according to claim 17 wherein said automated remote packaging setup of said print job is performed only if an error relating to packaging of said print job was identified in said preflight check.

19. A computer-readable medium according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of said print job at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said print job to select the desired shipping options for said print job when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

20. A computer-readable medium according to claim 19 wherein said automated remote shipping setup of said print job is performed only if an error relating to shipping of said print job was identified in said preflight check.

21. (Canceled)

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.